

Why Hadn't They Started a Long Time Before?

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"We must begin decarbonization,"
so said the woman on Radio Four [1].
She represents ceramic production.
Why hadn't they started a long time before?

They were supported by government favour
- removing incentives to fully explore
energy decrease, savings and changes
in sectors intensive with high carbon score.

But energy usage - does it not matter
that into the atmosphere, gases they pour
of greenhouse emissions that damage the climate
and so destroy livings of many who're poor?

Why do we need so many ceramics?
"New bathroom image: We want a new floor!
Must get new tiles - good range on the market.
Away with the old ones - just purchase some more."

Industry loves such profligate waste of
perfectly useful products, galore.
Boosts up their profits, and government incomes.
But carbon emissions continue to soar.

"We must begin decarbonization,"
Is it not heinous they did not before!
Industry, people and government likewise -
Our folly, may God forever deplore!

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Note 1. Interview with Laura Cohen, representative of the ceramics industry, BBC Radio 4 Today Programme, around 08:20 am. In light of burgeoning gas prices. The ceramics industry, which uses a lot of gas to heat the kilns and is complaining that the government should subsidise their use of gas. There are technical reasons, for example, a brick kiln 100m long at 1000 degrees C, which would get damaged if it were to be suddenly shut off. But why were not these kilns designed (a) so they could be shut down more quickly, (b) to use renewable energy?

It seems the UK government gives a "renewables exemption" to some energy intensive industries, allowing them to evade their responsibilities for "decarbonization" (reducing their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions), on the grounds that they "needed" a lot of energy to keep running, and "needed time" to adapt.

Time to adapt? I was **shocked** that she said, in effect, "We must **begin** decarbonization" rather than "We are decarbonizing but must do it more quickly".

In fact, her actual, longer wording, was worse than that. "But also longer term, we need to hit our decarbonization targets. So we need to *start development of a full range of decarbonization technologies*. In our spending review proposal we've *asked for some money* to work / matched by industry to *develop at pace the technologies* we need to also be able to meet decarbonization targets." From the words I emphasised there, we can see that what she said was that ceramics industries have not even begun designing and making the tools (the technologies) to enable them to

begin decarbonizing - and they are waiting for government money before they even begin developing those tools. My reaction, which stirred me to write this was "What an irresponsible attitude!"

There is something deeply wrong in all this, and it is at various levels.

- ◆ Industry: It has not begun decarbonization, and not even begun developing the tools to enable decarbonization, and it waiting on government money to begin doing even that. She saw decarbonization as merely "longer term," whereas currently she saw the need as "We need government to work with us to ensure that we can continue to compete internationally" (the sentence before the paragraph quoted above) - i.e. a subsidy for energy-intensive industries so that prices are kept artificially low.
- ◆ Government: Renewables exemptions for energy-intensive industries removes the incentive to decarbonize, and develop the tools to do so.
- ◆ People: We make decisions about what we buy and under what circumstances. Why can we not enjoy the bathroom with which we were gifted, rather than consuming yet more ceramics on a whim? In industry, it is doubtless true that ceramics are needed - but are they needed so much? Is it all too easy to decide "Get rid, and replace"? Are ceramics - and other high-carbon-footprint items - artificially cheap?

Why, at the end, do I bring in **God**? Partly because this is a website primarily for Christians. But, more fundamentally, because, without some Authority to Whom we are all responsible (we = industry, government and people together) we are still in danger of saying "We can ignore what those whingers are saying, because it's only their view, and we know better; they don't take account of [technology - human innovativeness - trickle-down economy - Kuznets Curve - or whatever]." I don't believe that (for example the Kuznets Curve has been completely discredited not least because it was posited for only a very limited context), and I see that irresponsible attitude as more heinous than the one by the representative of the ceramics industry.
